

Dear Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

We write to support continued funding for the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program (CHPDP). Since its launch in the Northwestern region just 16 months ago, the program has installed heat pumps in **303 homes**, a vast majority of which are located within disadvantaged communities. These heat pumps provide crucial – and often life-saving – heating and cooling for recipient homeowners.

More than 100 Oregonians died from heat-related illness during the 2021 heat dome event, and most of these deaths occurred in the home. Since then, the State of Oregon has recognized heat pumps as a pivotal technology for combating these avoidable deaths. CHPDP has been an effective and efficient way to ensure that this technology reaches the individuals and families who need it most. Over 99% of the homeowners served by CHPDP in the Northwestern region belong to priority communities identified by SB 1563. 87% of these households are low income, and 81% had no cooling prior to the CHPDP installation. **Without CHPDP assistance, many, if not most, of these recipients would still be at risk of illness or death due to extreme weather events.**

As federal funding for heat pumps becomes more uncertain, state support can help fill the gap. CHPDP provides a proven, effective, and tangible way to make progress on the State's ambitious emissions reduction targets, as well as its goal to install 500,000 heat pumps by 2030. It's also an essential safeguard to ensure that disadvantaged Oregon communities aren't overlooked in the clean energy transition.

In a short period, CHPDP has achieved remarkable success and enhanced the lives of hundreds of Oregonians. We urge you to continue funding CHPDP to ensure that more Oregon residents benefit from this impactful initiative. The success of programs like CHPDP can help solidify Oregon's leadership in energy efficiency at a time when state action is even more critically important.

Signed,

- City of Beaverton
- City of Tigard
- Community Energy Project
- Community Services Consortium
- Earth Advantage
- Emerald People's Utility District
- Eugene Water & Electric Board
- LatinoBuilt
- Multnomah County
- Rohingya Youth Association of Portland
- Seeds for the Sol

